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Promotion and protection of human rights: human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms

Letter dated 16 December 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the delegations listed in the annex to the present letter, I have the honour to transmit herewith the Declaration on the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 64 (b), "Human rights questions, including alternative approaches for improving the effective enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms".

The Declaration remains open for signature by the delegations concerned.

(*Signed*) Yuriy **Sergeyev**
Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 16 December 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration on the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine

The delegations of Albania, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxemburg, Malta, Monaco, Norway, Poland, Saint Lucia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America do solemnly declare,

Guided by the principles, embodied in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as in other relevant international instruments in the field of human rights which guarantee the right to life, liberty and security of person,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which, in particular, proclaimed that everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food,

Being aware that the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine took millions of innocent lives,

Being convinced that the tragedy of the Holodomor should be a reminder for present and future generations to unconditionally respect human rights, foremost the right to life in order to prevent the repetition of such tragedies,

Recalling in this regard the joint statement on the seventieth anniversary of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine of 7 November 2003 (A/C.3/58/9 and Add.1), recognizing the Holodomor as the national tragedy of the Ukrainian people, caused by the cruel actions and policies of the totalitarian regime,

Recalling the resolution on remembrance of victims of the Great Famine (Holodomor) in Ukraine 1932-1933, adopted on 1 November 2007 by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO),

Recognizing the importance of raising public awareness on the tragic events in the history of mankind for their prevention in future,

1. Commemorate the memory of the victims of the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine, a man-made famine that took the lives of millions of Ukrainians, including persons of other nationalities living in Ukraine at that time;

2. Pay tribute to the memory of millions of Russians, Kazakhs and persons of other nationalities who died of starvation in the Volga region, Northern Caucasus, Kazakhstan and in other parts of the former Soviet Union;

3. Welcome efforts of Governments to open their archives on the events of 1932-1933 to reveal the full truth of this tragedy, and to raise public awareness both at national and international levels so that the causes and consequences are comprehended;

4. Emphasize that the memories of past horrors and atrocities should reinforce the efforts of the international community to ensure unconditional observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms throughout the world;

5. Urge Member States to promote awareness about the Holodomor of 1932-1933 in Ukraine as a tragic page in global history.